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- Wheat

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Discount Store Prices: How Much Lower?

www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR105/

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Nontraditional stores, including mass merchandisers, supercenters, club warehouse and dollar stores, have increased their food offerings over the past 15 years and often promote themselves as lower priced alternatives to traditional supermarkets. How much lower are food prices at these stores? In order to better understand nontraditional stores' impact on the cost of food, ERS analysts evaluated food price differences between nontraditional and traditional stores at the national and market level using 2004-06 Nielsen Homescan data. Findings show that nontraditional retailers offered lower prices than traditional stores even after controlling for brand and package size. The report ***How Much Lower Are Prices at Discount Stores? An Examination of Retail Food Prices*** shows comparisons of identical items, at the Universal Product Code (UPC) level, with an expenditure-weighted average price discount of 7.5 percent, with differences ranging from 3 to 28 percent lower in nontraditional stores than in

Increased Biofuels: The Economic Effects

www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR102/

Achieving greater energy security by reducing dependence on foreign petroleum is a goal of U.S. energy policy. The Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (EISA) calls for a Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS-2), which mandates that the United States increase the volume of biofuel that is blended into transportation fuel from 9 billion gallons in 2008 to 36 billion gallons by 2022. Long-term technological advances are needed to meet this mandate. The report ***Effects of Increased Biofuels on the U.S. Economy in 2022*** examines how meeting the RFS-2 would affect various key components of the U.S. economy. If biofuel production advances with cost-reducing technology and petroleum prices continue to rise as projected, the RFS-2 could provide economywide benefits. However, the actual level of benefits (or costs) to the U.S. economy depends importantly on future oil prices and whether tax credits are retained in 2022. If oil prices stabilize or decline from current levels and tax credits are retained, then benefits to the economy would diminish.

Eating Out: Effects on Kids' Diet Quality

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In the report ***How Food Away From Home Affects Children's Diet Quality***, ERS researchers use 2 days of dietary data and panel data methods to estimate how children's consumption of food away from home, food from school (which includes all foods available for purchase at schools, not only those offered as part of USDA reimbursable meals), and caloric sweetened beverages affect diet quality and calorie consumption. Compared with meals and snacks prepared at home, food prepared away from home increases caloric intake of children, especially older children. Each food-away-from-home meal adds 108 more calories to daily total intake among children ages 13-18 than a snack or meal from home; all food from school is estimated to add 145 more calories. Both food away from home and all food from school also lower the daily diet quality of older children (as measured by the 2005 Healthy Eating Index). Among younger children, who are more likely than older children to eat a USDA school meal and face a more healthful school food environment, the effect of food from school on caloric intake and diet quality does not differ significantly from that of food from home.

The Food Assistance National Input-Output Multiplier (FANIOM) Model

www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR103/

USDA's Economic Research Service uses the Food Assistance National Input-Output Multiplier (FANIOM) model to represent and measure linkages between USDA's domestic food assistance programs, agriculture, and the U.S. economy. The ***Food Assistance National Input-Output Multiplier (FANIOM) Model and Stimulus Effects of SNAP*** report describes the data sources and the underlying assumptions and structure of the FANIOM model and illustrates its use to estimate the multiplier effects from benefits issued under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly the Food Stamp Program). FANIOM's GDP multiplier of 1.79 for SNAP benefits is comparable with multipliers from some macroeconomic models.

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Outlook

Investment in Processing Industry Turns Chinese Apples Into Juice Exports

www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/FTS/2010/10Oct/FTS34401/

ERS profiles the remarkable growth in China's apple juice concentrate exports since the 1990s and analyzes the factors behind the growth. The industry is a prime example of how capital investment and government policies bring China's labor-intensive agricultural products into the world market in the form of processed food and beverage products.

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